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ON INTELLIGENCE

December 19, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As you complete deliberations on your Administration's Fiscal Year 2020 budget, I respectfully request you include \$50 million and the legislative authority for the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital to lease approximately 45,000 square feet of research space at the University of Missouri's proposed Translational Precision Medicine Complex (TPMC).

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Truman Hospital (Truman VA) has a long standing partnership with the University of Missouri, which includes research and clinical care in those areas for which our nation's veterans suffer the most – cancer, cardiovascular disease, and a range of neurodegenerative diseases attributable to both the aging process and exposure to concussive episodes while serving in combat. Unfortunately, individual investigators at the Truman VA suffer from an acute lack of research space and there is little capacity in its existing facility footprint to cost-effectively expand its research laboratories. As a result, the Truman VA leasing approximately twenty percent of the TPMC is precisely the kind of public-private partnership your Administration and the Congress has encouraged the VA to undertake.

The University of Missouri and the Truman VA are currently working on emerging treatments that look to personalize the kind of therapeutics which can treat and cure disease and illness among our veterans. One leading example of this collaboration is the work of the Truman VA's Biomolecular Imaging Center and the University of Missouri Research Reactor to develop new radiopharmaceuticals that target specific kinds of cancer tailored to treat an individual's particular tumor pattern. This sort of precision medicine is built upon years of painstaking work that will be dramatically enhanced by having co-location of the Truman VA and University scientists in the new TPMC.

I am confident that the Truman VA and University of Missouri partnership in the TPMC can serve as a national model for cost-effective research investments to aid veterans everywhere. A goal I know we share. In addition to the vital scientific potential of this partnership, the proposed partnership will help stimulate critical job creation and sustainable economic development in mid-Missouri.

I know that resources in the current fiscal environment are limited. However, the VA is increasingly turning to these kinds of partnerships – having proposed comparable lease

agreements in size and cost in Massachusetts, California, and South Carolina. I strongly urge you to include funding and the necessary legislative authority to allow this initiative in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

Thank you for all you do for our nation's veterans.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roy Blunt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Roy Blunt
United States Senator